GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2485
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
VARIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been received to outsource the verification of documents in connection with developmental projects, in the context of delay in execution of Central Government programme in States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor including the further measures taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the execution of project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) No Madam. No specific suggestion has been received in this regard in Planning Commission.

(b) Taking measures to improve execution of development projects at different stages is a continuous process. Such major steps include rigorous project appraisal prior to sanctioning of the projects, which in turn includes guidelines for submitting such proposals in prescribed format so that matters which may cause delay in project execution like lack of adequate financial provisions, delay in getting project land and other statutory approvals are identified and addressed.

At the project execution stage, major steps undertaken to ensure timely completion of Central sector Infrastructure projects include on-line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) for better monitoring, setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns; regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries, setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committee (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Ministers for removal of bottle necks and for speedy implementation of major projects and release of installments of central assistance in a project as per laid down procedure on the basis of utilization certificates from the concerned Governments.

In some of the schemes where development projects are sanctioned by Government of India, scheme guidelines allow hiring of professional agencies with appropriate terms of reference like Project Management Units (PMUs) and Project Implementation Units (PIU) as well as Independent Review and Monitoring Agencies whose function is to help in execution of projects and assist the project authorities in preparation of project related documents.

Another major initiatives taken by the Government to improve the execution of project/Schemes is to restructure the centrally sponsored schemes in June 2013 wherein provisions has been made to provide flexibility to the State Governments by way of mandating keeping of at least 10% allocation in a scheme as flexi-fund and also making provision for introduction of State Specific guidelines to avoid the problem encountered due to one-size-fits-all approach.